

KLAN MOURNING A MARTYR TO NATION'S CAUSE

(Continued from Page 1)

tiny babies to care for. She still is, even in her sorrow, able to voice the sentiments of American Protestant womanhood.

The Carnegie affair, which added new names to the roll of Klan martyrdom, was merely a typical instance of the intolerance of the malign forces which would grind Protestantism and Americanism into the dust, and make mock of men who are striving to live, think and act clearly.

The American's answer to the Carnegie attack on the Klan will be half a million new citizens of the Invisible Empire in Pennsylvania, protesting against violence, intolerance and law violation. Fledgling crosses will blaze on hill tops from Maine to the Golden Gate. Men by the thousands will step forward into the ranks of the Klan, inspired by the certain knowledge that they have cast their lot on the side of righteousness, their careers consecrated to better things.

The story of the riot at Carnegie, which has been told at length in the newspapers all over the country, briefly is this:

On Saturday night, August 25, some twenty-five thousand Klansmen gathered at Carnegie, a suburb of Pittsburgh, Penn., for a great naturalization ceremonial. All day long automobiles arrived with their hundred per cent American passengers. The trolleys, the trains and the roads were congested. Carnegie was the mecca of Pennsylvania Klansmen.

The visitors were orderly, quiet, decent American citizens. Many of the visiting cars were decorated with American flags. Some bore crosses.

It was a great gathering, of course. It was a peaceable gathering. It was a meeting of American citizens, purely for the purpose of paying homage to their flag, and swearing renewed allegiance to their country and what it stands for.

Dr. H. W. Evans, Imperial Wizard of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, was the principal speaker at the big meeting which was held by the light of a great fiery cross on a hillside near Carnegie. He told his audience that their loyalty should be given to America; that they should obey all laws of the land in which they live. He urged his listeners to try and live the true life of Klansmen; to reverence womanhood; to stand for the purity of the white race; to be an AMERICAN first, last and all the time.

When he concluded his address heads were bowed in prayer, and to the tune of "America" the great throng moved forward in parade.

On a little bridge near the city limits of Carnegie the parade of Klansmen was stopped. An automobile was jammed in the narrow pathway and all progress thwarted. The grouped Klansmen halted. Bricks, clubs and rocks were hurled upon them from an alley near a Catholic church. Gunfire broke out.

"Paddy" McDermott, an Irish undertaker, according to the Pittsburgh newspapers, was one of the gunmen. He emptied the magazine of an automatic pistol into the ranks of the white-clad Klansmen. Klansman Abbott fell, shot through the head.

The mob closed in on the orderly line of march—beating, stabbing, shooting. Scores were hurt and many a Pittsburgh gangster nursed a sore nose because the Klansmen, resisting the intrusion of their constitutional right of peaceful assembly, fought back.

At the height of the riot the Klan leaders gave orders that the parade should end—that Klansmen should return to their meeting place, and in orderly array they turned about and went to the spot from which the pa-

rade started. There, after a brief meeting, the gathering adjourned.

The police of Carnegie and Pittsburgh took charge of the situation. They arrested McDermott and others of his friends whom they found with arms in their hands. They arrested Klansmen, who, indignant over Abbott's death, busied themselves in an attempt to find his murderer. This, briefly, is the story of mob violence as opposed to the right of peaceable assemblage—the shame of Carnegie and Pennsylvania—a shame which will not be effaced until the murderers of Abbott are brought to trial and given the punishment which is their proper due.

Here are a few extracts from Pittsburgh, Penn., daily newspapers, which give their comments on the Carnegie rioting. They are reproduced here so that the merits of the matter may be judged on the testimony of newspaper writers who, if they were biased, certainly are not biased in favor of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

Pittsburgh Post: "Autos had been placed at every available point in the street to prevent the paraders from advancing. This checked them. Someone demanded that the Klansmen take down the American flags they were carrying. The electric K-K-K sign (a cross) was torn from the leading automobile. Two squares further in town the Klansmen were halted again and then rioting broke out.

"A young man carrying a flag in the lead of the parade was grabbed by a mob, thrown into an automobile, and carried off.

"It is estimated that about 30,000 were in attendance at the meeting, and several thousand were being initiated. The Klansmen were without masks, and each had a narrow white ribbon tied in the lapel of his coat. "More than 5,000 women were estimated to have been in the Klan meeting at one time."

"Singing Onward, Christian Soldiers, the Klansmen began to move slowly forward. Their progress was met with fierce opposition at every point, fights breaking their ranks. Here and there occasional shots were fired. Men hurled lumps of coal at the marchers. For a short time the fighting was furious, then the Klansmen, apparently on the orders of leaders, retreated suddenly to the hill where the initiation ceremony had been held. When trouble seemed unavoidable, the King Klans of Pennsylvania is said to have ordered the marchers to turn to the hill where the cars were parked, pointing out that an attempt to break through would only mean bloodshed. Considerable excitement at the initiation field was caused at a signal from sentinels at the gates that an effort was being made by nearly a score of persons to gain admission. It was reported several gun shots were fired. No one was injured at that time.

"Education, immigration, obedience to the law and white racial supremacy, were the four topics of an address to the Klansmen, by Dr. Evans at the conclusion of the initiation ceremony."

The Pittsburgh Press: "Of the ten seriously injured three were stabbed, four were shot and the skulls of three were fractured by bricks. The dead man and all of the seriously injured are Klansmen. The rioting occurred when the Klansmen attempted to enter the borough over the Glendale bridge. They were halted by a mob of more than two thousand citizens, many of whom were armed, as the Ku Klux members descended from the hillside where they had held their meeting. Men and boys, brandishing firearms and clubs, shouted threats to the on-coming throng.

"When the first Klansman stepped over the borough line a band of citizens rushed toward him. He was knocked to the ground. The riot followed. The Klansmen waved flags

and shouted, their voices adding to the din raised by the yells of the citizens and cries of the injured. A thirty-two calibre automatic revolver was used in shooting the Klansman, who was found mortally wounded. A half dozen revolver shots were fired from ambush into the road, where sentinels of the Klan had been stationed. Cries of 'Get a rope,' 'Lynch them,' 'Kill them,' and similar threatening expressions filled the air. Leaders of the Klan held a pow-wow on the hill shortly before the parade started, and it is said they received the advice of attorneys that the burgess of Carnegie had no authority to stop the parade as long as it was orderly and lawful."

The Pittsburgh Gazette-Times: "Patrick McDermott, age 65, undertaker of Carnegie, was held in connection with the death of a Klansman during the riot early yesterday. Three other men are being held in the county jail in connection with the riot. They saved their names as Walter K. Flaherty, Joseph Joyce and Lawrence Kimmel."

Dr. Evans characterized his statement, issued tonight, as an official statement to the People of the United States concerning the murder of Klansman Abbott during a riot, when parading Klansmen were attacked by residents of Carnegie, Penn., Saturday night. The statement follows:

"The action of the mob of Carnegie residents is a gross violation of the rights of western Pennsylvania, gathered on a hillside overlooking Carnegie early in the evening, and following the initiation of one thousand men into the order, paraded in the direction of the town. They were halted at a bridge separating Glendale from Carnegie by trucks and other vehicles barring the road. Missiles of every description were thrown at the Klansmen. Fence paling, bricks, stones, coal, in fact every object which possibly could maim the law abiding Klansmen was hurled at them.

"In an effort to prevent their constitutional right of peaceable assembly being abridged by an element of citizenry absolutely dangerous to the safety and cause of freedom, the Klansmen moved forward a square where the attacking forces made ready for their coming with a bulwark of paving stones and bricks. A shower of these missiles fell on the Klansmen. The civilians began firing from a dark street and Klansman Abbott fell, mortally wounded.

"The Klansmen, in compliance with requests of assembled deputy sheriffs, went back to the meeting place on the hillside, then returned to their homes.

"Klansman Abbott was killed because he exercised his constitutionally guaranteed right of peaceable assembly, free speech and free movement over the highways of our country. "We are determined, that this and all other parts of our great land shall be made safe for native-born Americans, and that every right given us in the Constitution made by our forefathers shall be preserved to us and to our country."

Dr. Evans also stated that the Klan would pay a reward of twenty-five hundred dollars for the arrest and conviction of the murderer or murderers of Klansman Abbott. Rewards now total \$7,500 from Klan sources.

The Pittsburgh Gazette Times: "Peaceful in his final rest, the body of Thomas R. Abbott, age 24, of Atlasburg, who was shot in an attack on the Ku Klux Klan in Carnegie Saturday night, reposed last night in the home of relatives in Atlasburg.

"The Abbott home yesterday was deserted, while the widow and the two children of the slain man stayed with relatives, Mr. and Mrs. B. F. McMillan of Atlasburg. There about 100 Klansmen stood vigil over the body through the night.

"Discussing her husband's death, Mrs. Abbott said she felt Mr. Abbott's life had been given to a noble and just cause. 'It is no disgrace to have him die as he did,' she said, 'but,' she continued between sobs, 'how sorry I am that it has happened.'

"Men about the McMillan home, who said they were Klansmen, expressed their sorrow by lauding the purpose for which the young man, who had served four years in the Navy during the World War, died.

"Mr. Abbott is survived by his widow and two children, Thomas, age 3, and June, age 6 months; his brother, Mrs. Harriet Abbott, of Carnegie; one sister, Mrs. James Donnelly, of Carnegie, and two brothers, Frank of Carnegie and Elton of Ambridge."

The Pittsburgh Post: "At the height of the fight in East Main street, according to the story of one of the witnesses, as related by Chief Braun, Patrick McDermott ran out to the pavement flourishing a revolver. An instant later there were flashes of fire and the same number of explosions, from the undertaker's revolver, witnesses say. The man who later proved to be Abbott staggered and fell, continued the witness, who told Chief Braun, according to that

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official, that he turned to McDermott, who was right behind him, and cried 'My God, Paddy, why, WHY did you shoot that man in cold blood?'

"McDermott looked at him an instant and then, without saying a word, ran down a nearby alley, the witness said. It was two hours later that McDermott was arrested.

"One of the marchers bearing an American flag was snatched from the ground. The flag vanished. There were cheers and cries of 'Kill them!' 'Get a rope and lynch them.' Then a single voice among the Klansmen called, 'Let's go.' With this signal the marchers began to push forward. There was no fighting or struggling among the Klansmen. Three marchers stepped on each side of the stranded automobile and then began to fill in the ranks and march toward the main section of the borough.

"The second line of marchers hardly had gone ten feet before the electric cross on the automobile was torn down and smashed. This was followed by a hail of bricks and clubs at the marching Klansmen. The parade continued on its way down Third street. The hail of bricks continued. The crowd was evenly divided. Some cheered, others jeered. As the head of the parade reached Barrett Way, shooting began. Bystanders rushed for shelter. Women and children screamed. In a second the street was filled with rioters. When the shooting started, one of the Klansmen was seen to drop in the street. He was picked up and carried into the office of Dr. F. B. Jones, Jr., where he died a short time later."

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